

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2247

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10636

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HU, VT

SUBJECT: VATICAN-GOH TALKS IN BUDAPEST

REF: ROME 10046; BUDAPEST 2221 (NOTAL)

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

SUMMARY: THE POGGI-DIAS MISSION TO BUDAPEST JULY 8-12 WAS PART OF THE NORMAL EXCHANGE OF VISITS AGREED TO BETWEEN THE GOH AND THE VATICAN. ACCORDINGLY, THE VATICAN EXPECTS A GOH DELEGATION TO VISIT THE HOLY SEA IN THE FALL. ACCORDING TO DIAS, THE VISIT ACCOMPLISHED ITS PRINCIPAL PURPOSES WHICH WERE TO FEEL THE "PULSE" OF RELATIONS AND TO CLEAR UP MINOR ISSUES IN CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. MSGR. DIAS TOLD US THAT THE "PULSE" CONTINUES TO BE GENERALLY POSITIVE AND THAT THE VATICAN REPRESENTATIVES HAD NOTED HUNGARIAN WILLINGNESS FOR CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH ACCOMMODATING ON SPECIFIC DETAILS, GOH OFFICIALS IMPRESSED ON VATICAN OFFICIALS NECESSITY FOR HUNGARY NOT TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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TOO FAR "OUT FRONT" FROM OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ON RELIGIOUS

ISSUES. VATICAN OF STRONG IMPRESSION THAT THERE ARE PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS AMONG EAST EUROPEAN SOCIALIST AUTHORITIES CHARGED WITH CHURCH AFFAIRS AND THAT MAJOR "FORWARD STEPS" ON CHURCH-STATE QUESTIONS ARE PROBABLY COORDINATED.

2. DIAS ALSO SAID THAT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES THERE WAS GOH WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE. ACCORDINGLY, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW DECREE LIMITING RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION TO ONLY ONE HOUR TWICE A WEEK TO GROUPS OF 40 PERSON, THE GOH HAS AGREED TO THE VATICAN'S INTERPRETATION THAT THERE CAN BE MORE THAN ONE GROUP AT A TIME, DIFFERENTIATED ACCORDING TO THE AGE OF PARTICIPANTS, AND THAT THE SIZE OF THE GROUP CAN BE "MORE OR LESS 40". IN ADDITION, THE VATICAN OBTAINED PROMISES FOR MORE LIBERAL PUBLISHING PRIVILEGES FOR HUNGARIAN CHURCH.

3. AT A FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN THE FALL WITH GOH REPRESENTATIVES, VATICAN INTENDS TO PRESS FOR PERMISSION TO ENROLL MORE SEMINARY STUDENTS, MSGR. DIAS, ECHOING PREVIOUS STATEMENTS TO US BY "FOREIGN MINISTER" CASAROLI, ALSO STRESSED VATICAN INTENTION SYSTEMATICALLY TO TEST WITH GOH, AS WELL AS WITH OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE BASKET III PROVISIONS. VOLPE

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